

Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation

Interagency Meeting

Tuesday, November 25, 2003 - Sacramento, CA

Meeting Summary

Introduction

This summary briefly describes the proceedings of the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation (Investigation) Interagency Workshop. Facilitator Charles Gardiner explained that the purposes of this workshop were to review Investigation activities, identify areas of interest for each agency, identify potential levels of participation in study activities, and to establish a foundation for cooperating agency agreements. Agenda topics included:

- Meeting Purpose and Objectives
- Investigation Update
 - Activities to Date
 - Phase 2 Work Plan
- Agency Roles in Investigation Activities

Major Issues/Topics

- **Workshop Objectives.** As noted above, the purpose of this workshop was to provide information for agencies to consider when determining the level at which they will be involved in the Investigation. The potential levels of involvement include:
 - Review and Comment at Major Milestones
 - Participation in Stakeholder Work Group Meetings
 - Contribute to Specific Investigation Tasks
 - Alternatives Formulation
 - Evaluation Tools Development
 - Impact Analysis
 - Evaluation of Potential Benefits
- **Investigation Update.** The Investigation has completed the first phase of the feasibility study, and will be moving into its next phase of more detailed study and environmental review.
 - Phase 1 of the Investigation identified 16 site-specific surface storage options and narrowed the range of options to be carried forward for more detailed study to six. Major findings of Phase 1 include:
 - Additional water supply in the upper San Joaquin River basin could be developed with additional storage for river restoration, river water quality, or water supply reliability.
 - Six surface storage options will be studied further.
 - Preliminary engineering, environmental, and hydrologic studies show that potential sites may be viable.
 - Costs are within range of other projects under consideration elsewhere in California.
 - Public support for continued study of storage is strong.
 - Regional interest in conjunctive management is high.

- Phase 2 of the Investigation will complete the feasibility study and will culminate with a final feasibility report and EIS/EIR. Early Phase 2 activities will include storage site evaluations, the evaluation of project outputs, and alternatives formulation and evaluation.

Agency Input

Comments and questions received are summarized as follows:

- *Is the project limited to improving urban water quality? Are you considering water quality for drainage?*
- *Consider Environmental water account benefits and other water supply benefits.*
- *The 20-year record shows that over 12 million acre-feet could have been captured.*
- *Will the Investigation examine other water supply/storage alternatives?*
- *Under what circumstances would Reclamation reimburse the agencies for their participation?*
- *How is the Investigation purpose and need defined to encompass the range of objectives? When will this be discussed?*
- *What is the status of groundwater storage? Is it a functional equivalent? Is it still on the table?*
- *What about place-of-use, which is an important constraint?*
- *Given the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, will Friant become the conjunctive use project that was originally intended?*
- *What integrated reservoir operation scenarios will be considered?*
- *What about energy losses at and above Wishon Powerhouse? There are potential system wide impacts.*
- *How would operating for multiple benefits affect water supply?*
- *Even if groundwater storage were available, given the constraints of storage and retrieval (e.g., high flow rates during events, conveyance limits), groundwater alternatives would yield far less water than surface storage alternatives would.*
- *Explore storage/price changes that would encourage additional conjunctive use.*
- *Will the Investigation be provided a river restoration plan for analysis? No definitive description in CALFED charge; several ecosystem studies are underway for the San Joaquin River. The spectrum of enhancement concepts could be used for comparison of potential benefits. (Mr. Santoyo and Mr. Chedester will provide data from their studies.)*
- *What type of coordination is expected with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California?*
- *Consider involving the San Joaquin River Task Force.*
- *Consider agency meeting locations other than Sacramento.*
- *Hold an interagency scoping meeting in addition to the public scoping meeting. Consider the CALFED ACT as a venue.*

Agency Roles in Investigation Activities

Jason Phillips introduced Erin Quinn from Reclamation's Technical Services Center. She is joining the Investigation to coordinate agency involvement. She will be following up with agency representatives to further clarify agency interests and formalize cooperating agency status, as appropriate. Cooperating agency status will be established through formal correspondence.

Agency representatives commented on the study topics that would be of interest to their organizations and the likely timing of their agency's involvement, and provided the name of their designated representative. The responses, by agency, were as follows:

CALFED

- Integration of common assumptions as applicable.
- Ongoing coordination with Reclamation. Early information needed for Tribal consultation. Involvement in tiering off of the CALFED EIS/EIR.
- Designated representatives: Sergio Guillen (general representative) and Irenia Quitiquit (Tribal consultation).

US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Involvement in in-stream flow issues.
- Ongoing involvement.
- Designated representative: Mark Littlefield.

US Environmental Protection Agency

- Most interested in purpose and need and alternatives development and water quality analysis.
- Informal, ongoing involvement.
- Designated representatives: Carolyn Yale and Lisa Hanf (environmental office).

US Forest Service

- Involvement in baseline studies and evaluation of impacts.
- Will participate as a cooperating agency.
- Designated representatives: Christine Nota and Julie Tupper.

Bureau of Land Management

- Involvement in studying reservoir area resources, baseline studies, alternatives development, and evaluation of impacts to recreation and other resources.
- Will participate as a cooperating agency.
- Designated representative: Tracy Rowland.

US Army Corps of Engineers

- Involvement in analytical tools development, impact analysis, and evaluation of potential benefits. Involvement in flood control analysis, 404 permitting, use of modeling tools (e.g. CALSIM), regulatory issues, and analysis of policy (e.g. flood control). Key role in purpose and need discussion.
- Will participate as a cooperating agency; however, will need to discuss policy role.
- Designated representatives: Kevin Richardson and Paul Pugner (water management), and Paul Bowers (regulatory/policy issues).

Western Area Power Administration

- Involvement regarding projected use of power, upstream power benefits, conjunctive use, analysis of integrated operations, and pricing.
- Will participate as a cooperating agency.
- Designated representative: Howard Hirahara.

Department of Food and Agriculture

- Involvement in providing data on cropping patterns, baseline land use, mitigation strategies and on alternatives development.
- Not likely to participate as a cooperating agency.
- Designated representative: Steve Schaffer, also Dennis O'Brien in DOC.

State Water Resources Control Board

- Involvement in analyses concerning water rights and measuring water quality benefits.
- Review of environmental documents.
- Designated representative: Diane Riddle.

Madera Irrigation District

- As a member of the Friant Water Users Authority, the Resource Management Coalition, and Madera County, Madera Irrigation District has an interest in early involvement in alternatives development.
- Uncertain about the appropriateness of becoming a cooperating agency

Friant Water Users Authority

- Has an interest in restoration, water supply, flood control, and water quality.
- Ongoing involvement and involvement at the request of study team. Reclamation would like to coordinate data gathering and discuss water exchange assumptions with the Friant Water Users Authority.
- Will participate as a cooperating agency.
- Designated representative: Mario Santoyo.

San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority

- Interest in all aspects of the Investigation.
- Ongoing involvement with respect to all issues.
- Will participate as a cooperating agency.
- Designated representative: Steve Chedester.

San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority

- Interest in water supply and quality analyses.
- Ongoing involvement with respect to all issues.
- Designated representative: Tom Boardman.

Next Steps for Agency Involvement

Erin Quinn will contact agency representatives to coordinate and formalize relationship with cooperating agencies.

Next Meeting

An agency scoping meeting will be held prior to the public scoping meetings for the Investigation's EIS/EIR. Scoping will begin in early 2004 after an NOI/NOP is published.

Attendees

Participant

Summer Allen
Tom Boardman
Paul Bowers
John Brooks
Steve Chedester

Organization

US Environmental Protection Agency
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
US Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority

Attendees (continued)

Participant

Organization

Sergio Guillen	California Bay-Delta Authority
Howard Hirahara	Western Area Power Administration
Diane Marti	Bureau of Land Management
Jack Mills	Bureau of Land Management
Kirk Nelson	Reclamation
Christine Nota	US Forest Service
Steve Ottemoeller	Madera Irrigation District
Irenia Quitiquit	California Bay-Delta Authority
Christopher Reeves	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Kevin Richardson	US Army Corps of Engineers
Diane Riddle	State Water Resources Control Board – Water Rights
Tracy Rowland	Bureau of Land Management
Mario Santoyo	Friant Water Users Authority
Steve Shaffer	Department of Food and Agriculture
Lenore Thomas	Bureau of Land Management
Julie Tupper	US Forest Service
Carolyn Yale	US Environmental Protection Agency

Investigation Team Members Present

Marian Echeverría	Reclamation
Claire Hsu	
Jason Phillips	
Erin Quinn	
Craig Stroh	
Patrick Welch	
Jim West	
Don Treasure	
Waiman Yip	DWR
Charles Gardiner	PAM
Susan Burke	MWH
Stephen Osgood	
Bill Swanson	
Irina Torrey	
Yung-Hsin Sun	
Coral Cavanagh	CDM
Roger Johnson	
Walter Bourez	MBK
Russ Grimes	SKS